

# Caritas, Justice and Peace Commission – Update

## **Holocaust Memorial Day – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Today, 27th January, is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and is the UN International Day of Commemoration for Victims of the Holocaust. A series of discussions and commemorations can be found on:

<https://www.un.org/en/holocaustremembrance/>

## **Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita**

February 8<sup>th</sup> is the International Day of Prayer and Reflection Against Human Trafficking and the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita. There are upwards of 40 million people trafficked and held in modern slavery today. Pope Francis has said “we declare in the name of all people and of every one of our own Creed that modern slavery—in the form of human trafficking, forced labour, prostitution or the trafficking of organs—is a crime against humanity” and asked us to “work together to eradicate the terrible scourge of modern *slavery in all its forms.*”

St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of persons who are trafficked and was herself a victim of human trafficking. She was born in Darfur, Sudan in 1869, was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery. She was canonised by Pope Francis in 2000. You can read her story here: [www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-josephine-bakhita](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-josephine-bakhita)